

REF 1951

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SECURITY INFORMATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY

French Equatorial Africa

SUBJECT

Pointe Noire, Port Information;  
Approaches/Tugs and Lighters/Labor/  
Congestion/Other FacilitiesPLACE ACQUIRED  
(BY SOURCE)DATE ACQUIRED  
(BY SOURCE)

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1. APPROACHES: Entrance channel data and pertinent port and harbor information, as found on existing charts and in H.O. publications, appears to be fairly accurate. Local pilots report considerable silting north-west of the western breakwater, approximately  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles off. A French hydrographic survey vessel has been operating out of the port and is reported to be checking this silting and soundings in the approach areas as far as the breakwater entrance.
2. TUGS & LIGHTERS: There are lighter facilities for vessels at anchorage within the harbor and one tug of 600 horsepower is available for general use.
3. LABOR: The labor in this port is very much advanced and better trained than in any other West African port. Stevedoring equipment is of the latest type and the port is well supplied with this equipment.
4. CONGESTION: Sources report they have not experienced any congestion at this port during the past six months. However, movement of cargo from the port area by railroad is very slow.
5. OTHER FACILITIES: There is a marine railway capable of handling tugs and small craft. Ship's stores are scarce, but small quantities of good fresh water are available. Telecommunications are rather poor and unreliable. There has been no noticeable improvement in this regard during the past two years.

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ONI review(s) completed.

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